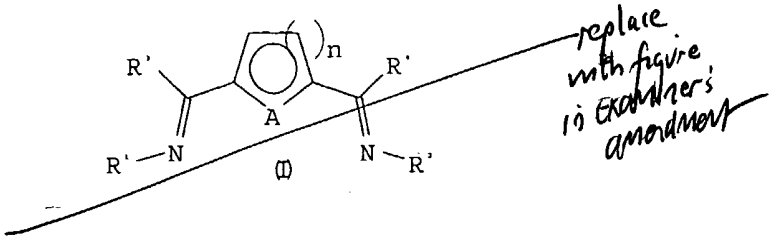
COPY OF ALL CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A compound of the formula (I)



replace with figure in Examiner's amendment

where the symbols have the following meanings:

A is a nonmetal selected from ~~among~~ the group consisting of N, S, O and P,

R^1 is a radical of the formula NR^5R^6,

R^2 is a radical of the formula NR^5R^6 or NR^7R^8, alkyl, aryl or cycloalkyl,

R^5 and R^6 together with the N atom form a pyrrole radical or a radical derived from pyrrole in which one or more -CH- groups in the pyrrole ring may be replaced by nitrogen ~~and~~ or which is substituted in the 2 and 5 positions by C_1-C_6-alkyl groups which may be linear, branched or substituted by heteroatoms, and/or by aryl groups which may be unsubstituted or in turn substituted by heteroatoms or C_1-C_6-alkyl groups which may be heteroatom-substituted and

R^7 and R^8 are, independently of one another, alkyl, aryl or cycloalkyl radicals, and

R^3, R^4 are, independently of one another, H or alkyl, aryl or cycloalkyl radicals, and

n is 1 or 2.

2. (canceled)

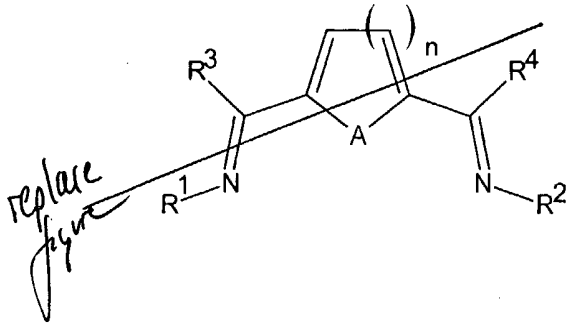
3. (canceled)

4. 2 (currently amended) A compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein the pyrrole radicals or radicals derived from pyrrole are substituted in the 2 or 5 position by electron-withdrawing radicals selected from the group consisting of

- halogen,
- -trihalomethyl,
- NO_2, and
- sulfonates selected from the group consisting of
  - SO_3R^*,
  - $SO_3SiR^*_3$ and
  - SO_3^- $(H\text{-}NR^*_3)^+$, ~~and~~
- ~~-trihalomethyl,~~

where R^* may be identical or different and are selected from the group consisting of H, C_1-C_{10}-alkyl, C_6-C_{20}-aryl and C_5-C_8-cycloalkyl.

5. 3 (currently amended) A compound of the formula (I) ~~as claimed in claim 1,~~



(I)

replace figure

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wherein ~~in the formula (I) of claim 1, A = N and n = 2~~

A is N,

n is 2,

R^1 is a radical of the formula NR^5R^6,

R^2 is a radical of the formula NR^5R^6 or NR^7R^8, alkyl, aryl or cycloalkyl,

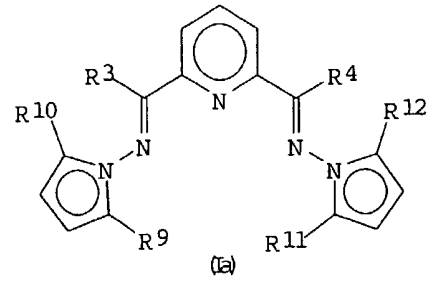
R^5 and R^6 together with the N atom form a 5-, 6- or 7-membered ring in

which one or more of the -CH- or -CH_2- groups may be replaced by suitable heteroatom groups and which may be saturated or unsaturated and unsubstituted or substituted or be fused with further ~~carbocyclic~~ carbocyclic or ~~heterocarbocyclic~~ heterocarbocyclic 5- or 6-membered rings which may in turn be saturated or unsaturated and substituted or unsubstituted,

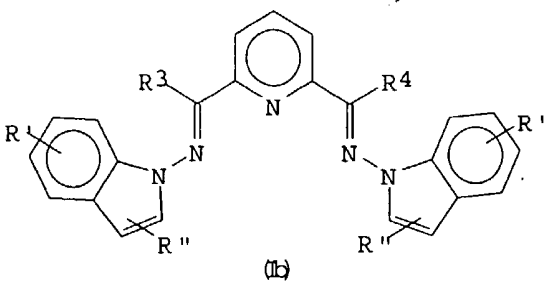
R^7 and R^8 are, independently of one another, alkyl, aryl or cycloalkyl radicals, and

R^3, R^4 are, independently of one another, H or alkyl, aryl or cycloalkyl radicals.

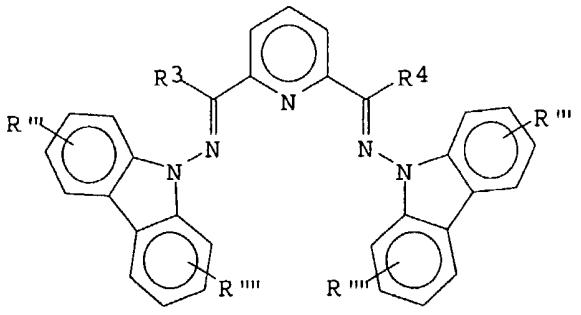
~~6.~~ 4 (currently amended) A compound ~~as claimed in claim 5~~ which corresponds to one of the formulae (Ia), (Ib), (Ic) and (Id):



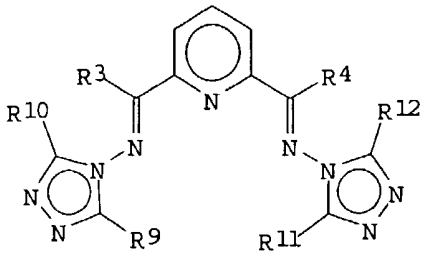
(Ia)



(Ib)



(Ic)



(Id)

where

R^3, R^4 are, independently of one another, H or alkyl or aryl radicals,

and

R^9, R^{10}, R^{11} and R^{12} are, independently of one another, C_1-C_6-alkyl radicals, and

R`, R``, R```, R```` are H or alkyl, aryl or cycloalkyl radicals.

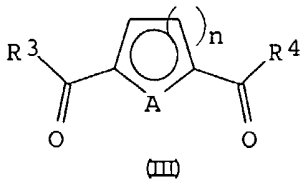
7. (currently amended) A process for preparing symmetrical compounds of ~~the formula (I) of~~ claim 19 ~~claim 1~~ in which $R^1 = R^2$ by reacting compounds of the formula (II)

$$H_2N\text{-}NR^5R^6 \qquad (II)$$

where

R^5 and R^6 are as defined in claim 19 ~~together with the N atom form a pyrrole radical or a radical derived from pyrrole substituted in the 2 and 5 positions by C_1-C_6-alkyl groups which may be linear, branched or substituted by heteroatoms, and/or by aryl groups which may be unsubstituted or in turn substituted by heteroatoms or C_1-C_6-alkyl groups which may be heteroatom-substituted~~,

with compounds of the formula (III)



(III)

where

R^3, R^4 are defined as in claim 19, ~~independently of one another, H or alkyl, aryl or cycloaklyl radicals, and~~

A is N or P, and

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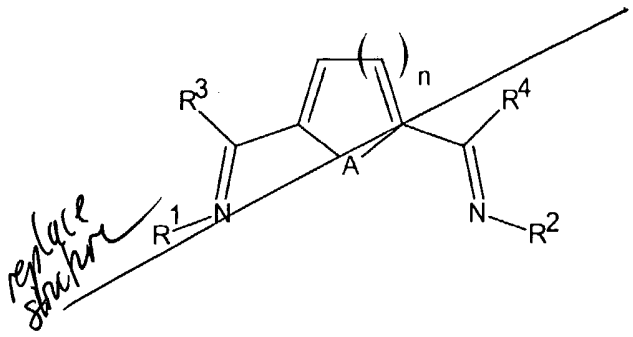
n is 1 or 2, ~~and~~

in a single-stage process under acidic reaction conditions in alcoholic solution or in the presence of a trialkylaluminum catalyst in an aprotic solvent in a ratio of the compound of the formula (II) to the compound of the formula (III) of 2:0.7-1.3.

~~8.~~ 5 (currently amended) A process for preparing unsymmetrical compounds of the formula (I)



(I)

~~of claim 1~~

wherein

A is a nonmetal selected from the group consisting of N, ~~S, O~~ and P,

n is 1 or 2,

R^1 is a radical of the formula NR^5R^6,

R^2 is a radical of the formula NR^5R^6 or NR^7R^8, alkyl, aryl or cycloalkyl,

R^5 and R^6 together with the N atom form a 5-, 6- or 7-membered ring in which one or more of the -CH- or $-CH_2-$ groups may be replaced by suitable heteroatom groups and which may be saturated or unsaturated and unsubstituted or substituted or be fused with further carbacyclic or heterocarbacyclic 5- or 6-membered rings which may in turn be saturated or unsaturated and substituted or unsubstituted,

R^7 and R^8 are, independently of one another, alkyl, aryl or cycloalkyl radicals, and

R^3, R^4 are, independently of one another, H or alkyl, aryl or cycloalkyl radicals;

in which $R^1 \neq R^2$ in a two-stage process in which

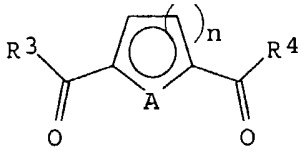
a) in a first step, compounds of the formula (II)

$$H_2N\text{-}NR^5R^6 \qquad (II)$$

~~where~~

~~R^5 and R^6 together with the N atom form a pyrrole radical or a radical derived from pyrrole substituted in the 2 and 5 positions by C_1-C_6-alkyl groups which may be linear, branched or substituted by heteroatoms, and/or by aryl groups which may be unsubstituted or in turn substituted by heteroatoms or C_1-C_6-alkyl groups which may be heteroatom-substituted;~~

are reacted with compounds of the formula (III)



(III)

~~where~~

~~R^3, R^4 are, independently of one another, H or alkyl, aryl or cycloalkyl radicals, and~~

~~A is N or P, and~~

~~n is 1 or 2,~~

in a mole ratio of the compounds of the formula (II) to the compounds of the formula (III) of 1:0.8-1.2 under acidic conditions in alcoholic solution to form the corresponding monoimine and the solvent is subsequently

removed under reduced pressure,

and

b) the resulting monoimine is, in a second step, reacted with compounds of the formula (II) which differ from the compounds of the formula (II) used in step a); or with compounds of the formula (IV)

$$H_2N\text{-}NR^7R^8 \quad (IV)$$

~~where~~

~~R^7 and R^8 are, independently of one another, alkyl, aryl or cycloalkyl radicals,~~

or with amines of the formula (V)

$$R^{13}\text{-}NH_2 \quad (V)$$

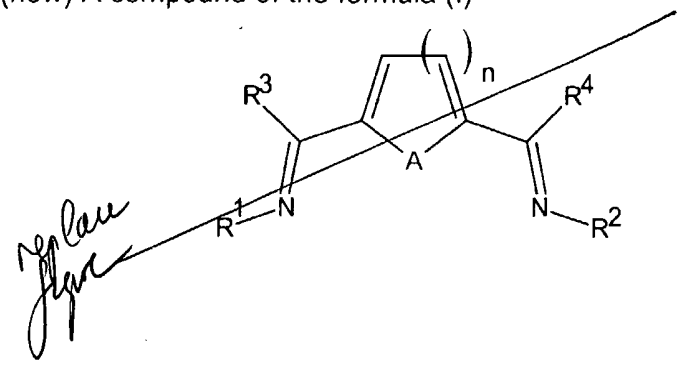
where

R^{13} is an alkyl, aryl or cycloalkyl radical,

in aprotic solution in the presence of a trialkylaluminum catalyst in a mole ratio of the monoimine to the compound of the formula (II) which differs from the compound of formula (II) used in step a), (IV) or (V) of 1:0.8-1.2.

9.-18. (canceled)

~~19.~~ 6 (new) A compound of the formula (I)



(I)

wherein

A is a nonmetal selected from the group consisting of N and P,

n is 1,

R^1 is a radical of the formula NR^5R^6,

R^2 is a radical of the formula NR^5R^6 or NR^7R^8, alkyl, aryl or cycloalkyl,

R^5 and R^6 together with the N atom form a 5-, 6- or 7-membered ring in which one or more of the -CH- or $-CH_2-$ groups may be replaced by suitable heteroatom groups and which may be saturated or unsaturated and unsubstituted or substituted or be fused with further ~~carbacyclic~~ carbocyclic or ~~heterocarbacyclic~~ heterocarbocyclic 5- or 6-membered rings which may in turn be saturated or unsaturated and substituted or unsubstituted,

R^7 and R^8 are, independently of one another, alkyl, aryl or cycloalkyl radicals, and

R^3, R^4 are, independently of one another, H or alkyl, aryl or cycloalkyl radicals;

or wherein

A is ~~a nonmetal selected from the group consisting of S, O and~~ P,

n is 1 or 2,

R^1 to R^8 are as defined above;

or wherein

A is N,

n is 2,

R^1 is as defined above,

R^2 is a radical of the formula NR^7R^8, alkyl, aryl or cycloalkyl,

R^3 to R^8 are as defined above;

or wherein

A is N,

n is 2,

R^1 is as defined above,

R^2 is a radical of the formula NR^5R^6 or NR^7R^8, alkyl, aryl or cycloalkyl,

R^5 and R^6 together with the N atom form a 6- or 7-membered ring in which one or more of the -CH- or -CH_2- groups may be replaced by suitable heteroatom groups and which may be saturated or unsaturated and unsubstituted or substituted or be fused with further ~~carbacyclic~~ carbocyclic or ~~heterocarbacyclic~~ heterocarbocyclic 5- or 6-membered rings which may in turn be saturated or unsaturated and substituted or unsubstituted,

R^7 and R^8 are as defined above, and

R^3, R^4 are as defined above;

or wherein

A is N,

n is 1,

R^1 is as defined above,

R^2 is a radical of the formula NR^5R^6 or NR^7R^8, alkyl, aryl or cycloalkyl,

R^5 and R^6 together with the N atom form a 5-membered ring in which none of the other -CH- or -CH_2- groups is replaced by a heteroatom group, and which may be saturated or unsaturated and unsubstituted or substituted or be fused with further ~~carbacyclic~~ carbocyclic or ~~heterocarbacyclic~~ heterocarbocyclic 5- or 6-membered rings which may in turn be saturated or unsaturated and substituted or unsubstituted,

R^7 and R^8 are as defined above, and

R^3, R^4 are as defined above;

or wherein

A is N,

n is 2,

R^1 is as defined above,

R^2 is a radical of the formula NR^5R^6 or NR^7R^8, alkyl, aryl or cycloalkyl,

R^5 and R^6 together with the N atom form a 5-membered ring in which one or more of the -CH- or -CH_2- groups may be replaced by suitable heteroatom groups and which may be saturated or unsaturated and unsubstituted or substituted and is fused with one or more further carbocyclic ~~carbacyclic~~ or heterocarbocyclic ~~heterocarbacyclic~~ 5- or 6-membered rings which may in turn be saturated or unsaturated and substituted or unsubstituted,

R^7 and R^8 are as defined above, and

R^3, R^4 are as defined above;

or wherein

A is N,

n is 2,

R^1-R^4, R^7, and R^8 are as defined above, and

R^5 and R^6, together with the N atom form a pyrrole ~~pyrrol~~ radical which may be substituted or unsubstituted or fused with further carbocyclic ~~carbacyclic~~ 5- or 6-membered rings which may in turn be saturated or unsaturated and substituted or unsubstituted.